

4215, Edinburgh Community Sch Corp

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Edinburgh Community School Corporation is a small rural school district in the southeast corner of Johnson County. Over the last several years, our district has established a collaborative relationship with Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corporation, a rural district 13 miles away in the southwest corner of the county. The two districts have many things in common including a unique rural population, financial need from low assessed valuation, and program limitations based on size. We have found that combining efforts and funding has allowed us to succeed in initiating new programs. Our most current joint accomplishment this past year was the establishment of a shared Alternative School.

Using a combination of local funding and funds from the Learning Technologies Grant, the two districts will jointly address improving teacher instruction and student performance using technology in two targeted areas. The initiative will take the form of two distinct projects. While Edinburgh will serve as LEA for the grant, each of the projects will be led by a team's working together across districts.

The first project, "Engaging Students", will provide a 1:1 computer initiative at 5th and 6th grade in both districts using laptops. The project will address the following performance issues:

1. Developing Content and Methodology that engages students.
2. Improving student academic achievement in Reading and Math
3. Replacing a reliance on textbook driven instruction.
4. Identifying Web resources and Web 2.0 computer tools for use in the project.
5. Exploring an integrated learning approach to Science and Math using the I-STEM model.
6. Creating lessons that use technology and address State Academic Standards in all areas of instruction.
7. Developing a collaborative classroom in which students use technology to communicate.

Our district has spent the past year planning and developing this project with local funds at the 6th grade level at our Middle School and will use grant funds to complete and expand implementation. We will take the leadership role on all aspects of this project and will work with an NHJ Team which will implement the same project at the 5th Grade at IC Intermediate School.

The second project, "Reading and Math Intervention Using Technology", will address an identified need for both districts to improve student reading and math skills at grade K through 2. The project will build on the DIBELS assessment program in use at both districts. Using the MCLASS program, the K-2 teaching staff of Edinburgh East Elementary and Indian Creek Elementary will utilize technology to improve the initial assessment process and provide capabilities for more effective progress monitoring. The project will also include the use of technology to deliver RTI solutions to improve student performance in reading and math. The project will address the following performance issues:

1. Improving the reading performance of all K-2 students, including the Tier 1 general student population through the Tier 3 students with high support needs.
2. Improve the math performance of K-2 students.
3. Providing a more effective assessment and progress monitoring system using computer-linked hand held devices.
4. Developing an intervention program that includes a reliance on "differentiated instruction" incorporating the use of technology.
5. Developing a web based parent information and support site.

Using local funds, Indian Creek Elementary has spent this past Spring semester planning a complete implementation of MCLASS and a proactive intervention strategy to use with it. They will take the leadership role on this project and will bring their expertise to our project leadership team and our teaching staff at Edinburgh Eastside Elementary.